Tales of Walnut Hill

By Robert Summa

Volume 2

Welcome to the Tales of Walnut Hill

We have a rich history we will share as you read this book. We will look at the past and the all-time greats that left their mark on the history of Walnut Hill: the masters of rifle shooting and pistol shooting. They generated the spirit of the Hill through competitive shooting. What they built and shot was a challenge. They were the distinguished shooters of the Hill. They came from all over the country to shoot at Walnut Hill. We have Harry Pope, the greatest barrel maker of his time and a master rifle shooter. We have Niedner, an all-time great, a master rifle shooter, and one of the top gunsmiths of his time who chased Geronamo all over the southwest in the 6th Calvary. Then there is Dr. Mann, the father of ballistics, who in 1909 published *The Bullet's Flight* in his quest for the magic bullet and the magic barrel for the perfect score with the perfect rifle. He was a medical doctor and gave up his practice for his quest in ballistics. Then there are D. L. F. Chase, Ned Roberts, Horace Warner, H. V. Perry, Norman Brockway, C. W. Rowland, H. L. Willard, E. A. Leopold, W. V. Lowe, the Russell brothers, Arthur Corbin Gould, N. C. Nash, O. E. Gerrish, John Kelley, Will Hayes, Dr. W. G. Hudson, the great offhand shot Adolph Strecker, Dr. Bakery, L. P. Hansen, Young, Mr. Fry, Daniel Fox, Major Hinman, F.J. Rabbeth and Professor Bell. All are the masters of the rifle. The masters of pistol are C. Paine, Tom Anderton, Eugene Patridge, and Dorothy Knight at Walnut Hill. The riflemen of the Hill, having looked at the American militia team's defeat at Creedmoor, decided to do something about it, so they trained a militia rifle team. Some were members of Walnut Hill and knew the game of long range shooting, and were sent to Creedmoor where they won every event entered. The Walnut Hill riflemen were men of stature: doctors, engineers, and masters of their trade. They were men that enjoyed the shooting sport and did all they could to preserve it for the future generations to come. They shot offhand at ranges of 600, 800, 900, and 1000 yards, holding the finest rifles of their day. H. Pope was the father of the gane twist rifle barrel. Pope and Niedner made barrels for Dr. Mann.

All proceeds from the selling of these books will go to the Massachusetts Rifle Association to preserve the history of the M.R.A. through our Museum. If you can help, I thank you. I am looking for old photos of Walnut Hill to share with our membership. The one thing I have learned about history: if someone does not record it, it is lost for all time. But these books will present a vast history which we will share with the world. As you read and look at all the photos, know the books will be a treasure for future generations after we have all come and gone. The books detail the Tales of Walnut Hill. And we will only print 100 books in each series, for this is truly a limited edition!

Robert Summa
M.R.A. Historian at the Walnut Hill Range

The Massachusetts Rifle Association

Tales of Walnut Hill

Volume 2

I dedicate this book to
Maureen Farrington,
for all her help in making this volume possible.

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Introduction

You are about to go on a journey into the past. At the end of this road is the Massachusetts Rifle Association, the oldest shooting range in the United States. We have been shooting at Walnut Hill from 1875 to the present day; the stories and questions have not changed over the years. I hope you'll enjoy these unique stories and viewing photos of the time. The stories are very informative and record the bonding and respect of the many men and women of the era. Some of these stories are tragic and will bring a tear to your eye. They'll cover rifles, pistols, trap shooting, hunting, and fishing trips by the members of Walnut Hill. It's like rubbing the magical lamp of Aladdin, reliving the myths and legends of the Hill. That genie of discovery has made possible the contributions of rich knowledge, accomplishments, and achievements, which have been hidden for centuries in the dark vaults of the M.R.A., waiting to be shared with the new generation of the Hill. All I can say is that there's something in the air at Walnut Hill~or it's the magic and intrigue of the all~time greats that have entered the hollowed ground of the Walnut Hill Legend!

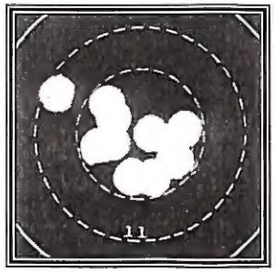
Mr. Francis J. Rabbeth

Rifle shooting in Europe is chiefly confined to two styles of rifles, the military rifle and the hunting rifle. In America there are many departments of rifle shooting, all of which require a special order of skill to excel. It is difficult for those not familiar with these departments to fully comprehend the study and skill necessary to shoot sufficiently well to elicit commendation. Rest shooting is a department which, perhaps, is as little understood as any by the average person. It is difficult for many to see why one person cannot shoot as well as another if the rifle is placed on a rest; but such persons have only to try it to be convinced that the most perfect rifle if imperfectly manipulated performs only mediocre work.

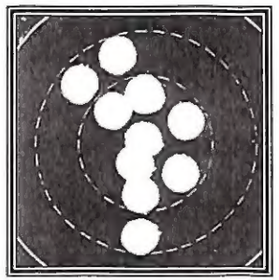
Recently, the attention of the rifle shooting fraternity has been attracted to the superfine rifle shooting of Mr. F. J. Rabbeth (J. Francis) at Walnut Hill, Mass. Mr. Rabbeth's rifles have been described in these columns several times, so I will not repeat the descriptions. There are one or two points, however, that have not been mentioned. The rifle shot by Mr. Rabbeth, Mr. Chase, and other expert rest shots are far from being objects d'art. Possibly some of the fastidious riflemen, who delight in having built, under special directions, a symmetrical, highly-finished rifle, would have their aesthetic senses shocked if they could see some of the rifles that do the finest work at Walnut Hill. If you should inquire of a rifleman what kind of a rifle was used by some expert rest shot, it is probable that the question would provoke a smile, and the reply would no doubt be, a mongrel rifle, or words to that effect. I do not believe there is an expert rest shot at Walnut Hill who shoots a rifle of any make as sent out by the manufacturer. At the present time, the Ballard action is the favorite on account of convenience in cleaning it from the breech end and the considered superiority in the trigger-pull. But into nearly every Ballard action is fitted a Winchester barrel, all the best shots showing a preference for the .38-caliber chambered for the straight fifty-five grain shell. These barrels are thick and heavy; frequently they are not even blued, and it is not unlikely they may have several slots cut in them as the result of trying telescopes of various lengths. There are no fancy stocks, but instead, some decidedly crude ones; perhaps a fancy nickeled Swiss butt-plate has been ruthlessly discarded, and a piece of sole leather tacked on in its place. But those unattractive looking rifles shoot amazingly well, and they are handled with the greatest care and with consummate skill.

I have alluded to Mr. Rabbeth's fine shooting. Two weeks ago he fired forty consecutive shots, all of which, with the exception of two, were placed on and in the eleven circle of the Standard American Rest Target. Mr. Rabbeth generally records the location of each shot in his score book, but on the day he did his fine shooting, he omitted to keep a record of his first score. At the beginning of his second ten shots he commenced recording the location of his shots. I was privileged to inspect his score book last week, and received permission to copy two of the scores, which enables me to present them to the readers of (*Shooting and Fishing)* full size. These are 10-shot scores, and count 119 and 117 respectively out of a possible 120 points, every point which is likely to aid in doing fine shooting. The practicability of the shooting is not considered; these rifles bear the same relation to the military rifle and the hunting rifle as the racing shell does to the row boat, the modern racing yacht to the merchant vessel, the trotting gig to the riding vehicle. It would he ridiculous to take one of these modern rest rifles to the field for

game shooting, or place it in the hands of a soldier in warfare. I have endeavored to make clear the fact that the rest rifle is not a practical weapon. Shooting it is a distinct and separate department of rifle shooting not to be compared with other styles of rifle shooting; but it requires supreme skill to shoot as does Mr. Rabbeth and some of his associates. Besides, there are many ideas developed which are valuable, and are applied to shooting the coarser but more practical weapons employed in hunting and in warfare.



Ten consecutive shots
at 200 yards,
by Mr. F.J. Rabbeth.



Ten consecutive shots
at 200 yards,
by Mr. F.J. Rabbeth.

1893 Mr. F.J. Rabbeth (J. Francis).
(Caught with a Kodak.)

Rifle Gossip

But it is with the class of riflemen that are themselves "cranks," that a writer will likely meet, on the range and particularly the small-bore cranks. Our friend, Mr. R. E. Boyer, has commissioned the writer the "captain-general" of the small bore crank army. This is putting it rather strong, friend Boyer, but I can stand it if the rest can.

"What have we new?" the crank inquired. After we have tamed one rifle down so that it will behave fairly well, we have no more use for it. "What next?" is the watchword. The writer at present is wrestling with the .25 calibers, and no sooner have we brought the center fire down to time than a new star appears in the east, giving promise of the early dawning of a new day to the lover of the small-bore rifles. Heretofore, the rim-fire cartridge, with the conception of the .22 caliber, has been an abomination, and it has been long and hard that we have labored to have a good small-bore, rim-fire cartridge, one that has the bullet seated down in the shell, and with inside lubrication. The advantages of such a cartridge are obvious to every rifle shooter that has ever used the arm for hunting purposes and roughing it. How many times we have missed a squirrel with the shot fired at him, and then had to fish out the box of cartridges, and, while trying to keep our eyes on the game, and the rifle, and the box of cartridges, and the cover to the box, and the bigger half of the box of cartridges down in the shells at our feet, we have wished that all the rim-fire ammunition was well out of existence, so that we might never be troubled with it again. I hope we soon forget and use it once more.

I am now writing of the .22 long rifle cartridge, and why? Because it is so convenient. All we have to do with it is to fire and throw the shell out upon the ground. No bother about washing out and reloading shells, etc., for it is so cheap that we can afford to use it as freely as we wish, and a little practice of a hundred shells costs but a few cents. The bullet in the new cartridges is seated down in the shell, so that the cartridges may be carried loose in a side pocket where they will be convenient and easy to get to without danger of inquiry to the lubricating greasing the hands or pocket. If one is dropped in the sand it is not injured, for there is no grease exposed to hold the grit. My opinion now is that the new cartridge will make a good round for various kinds of light shooting, and will, with a certain extent, supercede the .22 and .32 caliber fire cartridges used heretofore. It is not as powerful as the central-fire, and for this reason that some will prefer the latter.

Speaking of the cranks, the writer remembers some short time since, while returning from the range, that the subject was turned upon the new .25 rim-fire cartridge, and the cranks that must have another new rifle. I mentally declared that I was real cranky enough to buy another one again, so social. But, boys, "an honest confession is good for the soul;" the J. Stevens Arms and Tool Co.

Chevalier Ira Paine

The Rifle, April 10, 1887

Chevalier Ira Paine

Many of the readers of this journal have had the pleasure of witnessing the wonderful shooting of Chevalier Ira Paine, in the theaters of this country. Persons unfamiliar with firearms have been amused and delighted; those who are used to handling these weapons were not highly entertained, but amazed at the wonderful skill, particularly with the pistol and revolver, displayed by this gentleman. We have for many years been interested in firearms, and have embraced every opportunity presented to witness feats of marksmanship in several countries of the world. We believe Chevalier Paine to possess greater skill in the use of the pistol and revolver, at all distances and under various conditions, then any person we have ever seen or heard of.

It is not our intention to ignore his skill with rifle and shot gun; but, as he is so much the superior with pistol and revolver. So many brilliant feats have been accomplished by him with these weapons and with a limited space in which to recite these achievements, we are constrained to confine our sketch to his career with these arms.

Chevalier Paine was born at Hebronville, Massachusetts. He received a musical education, and became a professional tenor singer. Seeking for recreation he became a member of a yacht club, and, as its members were fond of shooting, he became interested in firearms. And with his characteristic enthusiasm and persistency in practice, he soon became the best shot in the club; then, seeking for fresh victories, he successfully combated with noted shots. These victories brought him such a reputation that he commenced giving public exhibitions, appearing before audiences in nearly every large city in America and Europe.

Noticing the small number of persons who could handle the pistol skillfully, then among expert riflemen, Chevalier Paine determined to master this weapon. He selected the Stevens pistol, well known for its unsurpassed accuracy. With this arm he soon was able to perform unequaled feats of marksmanship; in fact, several years ago it seemed to us that this marvelous pistol shot could secure with this weapon all it was possible of doing. We have seen him repeatedly fire ten shots at ten or twelve yards, breaking them all into one hole, which would generally enlarge to about one inch in diameter, leaving a clean hole.

During his first tours of this country he used this pistol exclusively. The feats performed were: breaking glass balls at twelve yards; breaking a glass ball and other objects down to the size of a walnut, placed on the helmet worn by his wife, both while she stood stationary and while walking. Hitting swinging balls, hitting the spots of playing cards held by his wife, hitting the one inch bull's-eye on a card, then splitting the same when held sidewise. He soon became aware that, owing to the small size of the.22 caliber bullet, balls would not smash thoroughly, and, although the feats were more difficult with the tiny bullet, the hitting of the spots and splitting of the cards could not be seen by every one in a large audience. He, therefore, cast about for an additional weapon, but still retaining the reliable Stevens pistol for feats of skill where he could not afford to risk the life of his fair companion who assisted him in his exhibitions.

In 1881, after making extensive tours of this country, Chevalier Paine went to Europe. Noted shots with the shotgun and rifle had preceded him, but no one of unusual skill with

with the pistol had appeared before the public. To illustrate the unprecedented success he met with we append a list of places in Europe where he gave exhibitions: Commenced Oct. 1,

1881 - Brussels; 1 month, Paris; 4 months.

1882 - Berlin, 4 months; Bordeaux, 2 months; Madrid, 6 weeks; Barcelona, 1 month; Lisbon, 3 weeks; Paris, 6 weeks.

1883 - Hanover, 2 weeks; Maddeburg, 8 days; Berlin, 4 days; Breslau, 6 weeks; St. Petersburg, 2 months; Moscow, 16 days; Nijni, 1 week; Warsaw, 2 weeks; Konigsberg, 4 days.

1884 - Lyons, 1 month; London, 6 weeks; Marseilles, 1 month; Paris, 2 months; Manchester, 2 weeks; Scarborough, 1 week; Hull, 2 weeks; Doncaster and Lincoln, 1 week; Nottingham, 2 weeks; Coventry, 1 week; Cheltenham, 1 week; Birmingham, 1 week, Litchfield and West Brunswick, 1 week; Worcester, 1 week; Newport, 1 week; Swansea, 1 week; Cardiff, 1 week.

1885 - Paris, 1 month; Vienna, 2 months; Budapest, 2 months; Arad and Hungary 8 days; Temesvar, 4 days; Kolozsvar, 5 days; Gros Vardun, 4 days; Kronstadt, 2 days; Hermanstadt, 3 days; Prague and Prussia 16 days; Dresden, 19 days.

This extensive European trip was a complete success in every respect, and brought a rich reward, besides honors never bestowed upon an American artist. These facts will show how the general public was pleased at the work of this skilled marksman; but his achievements among the practical sportsman, armorers and experts of a lesser amount of skill will, doubtless, be of unusual interest to our readers.

When Chevalier Paine arrived in England he diligently sought for improved pistols and revolvers; but up to the present time he had found none superior to those of American manufacture. He was often invited to shoot before the foremost European armorers. One of his exhibitions in England was at Nunhead, at the grounds of the South London Shooting Club. The object of the exhibition being to demonstrate the superiority of the American army revolver, or service charge, at long range, over the lighter charge used by the English army. It was an important event, and the London journals gave long accounts of the exhibition. He shot a Colt's .45 cal. Army revolver, 7 ½ inch barrel, using a charge of 40 grains of powder and 200 lead; the English service revolver containing from 13 to 18 grains of powder with a 265 grain bullet. The weapon used at short range was the Colt revolver, .45 cal., 5 ½ inch barrel. He commenced the exhibition by firing 50 shots at 12 yards, using a Boxer cartridge with 18 grains of powder, 265 lead, the bull's-eye being 4 inches in diameter, all the shots being bull's-eyes, there being only two nippers in the lot. He then fired 25 shots with a 7 ½ inch Frontier model, with the regulation charge of 40 grains of powder, 200 of lead, 23 of which were bull's-eyes. The net trial was at 25 yards, at a 4 inch bull's-eye, with the boxer cartridge, 18 of the shots being bull's-eyes, and the remainder of the shots forming a parallelogram of 5 in. by 4 ½. At 100 yards, with the Colt's Frontier model and the heavy charge, 6 shots were fired on a paper target, resulting in 4 bull's-eyes and 2 close shots. Six more shots were fired at this distance on an iron target, an excellent group made, and the power of the charge satisfactorily demonstrated. All of the shooting was done under unfavorable weather conditions, but the excellent results were very favorably commented upon by the English press.

When Chevalier Paine appeared at the Parisian theaters he was looked upon as a clever performer, but the genuineness of his work was doubted by many. Hints were thrown out that as Madame Paine held her hands behind her, she manipulated a spring in such a manner as to break the glass ball in her helmet. It was also intimated that she wore a steel glove, and had control of various devices to puncture cards and break objects shot at. An invitation was finally extended to Chevalier Paine to visit the famous shooting gallery of Gastine-Renette, a place of resort for all the famous duelists and expert pistol shots of Europe. He gladly accepted this invitation, and not only proved his capability to perform all the feats with the pistol he claimed to do, but won the grand medal of honor and the friendship of the famous pistol maker for his unequaled skill. The visitor to this gallery will find many of Chevalier Paine's scores framed and occupying conspicuous places. The Paris Figaro, having extended an invitation to him to exhibit his skill before its staff, he appeared at their rooms, and that evening, being in unusual fine form, delighted the Parisian journalists by an exhibition of pistol shooting unequaled to anything previously witnessed by them, even in the great French Metropolis, where skill in the use of the pistol is recognized as a high accomplishment, and where journalists gain nearly as great fame by skill in the use of the pistol as by wielding the pen.

The final feat performed at this office was cutting a letter f with bullets from his pistol, this target now hanging in the editorial rooms of this great journal.

While is Paris he was urged to measure his skill with Monsieur Henri Cartier, a famous duelist, journalist, and counted as one of the best pistol shots in Europe. The match was shot at the Gastine-Renette Gallery, resulting in a victory for Chevalier Paine by nine percent. The publicity gained by the published accounts of his wonderful work deterred other shots in Paris from competing with him, and, having no desire to contest in matches, he confined his shooting to exhibitions and refrained from further contesting for prizes.

While exhibiting in Vienna, Austria, he was urged to shoot a match with Josef Schulhof, the famous armorer, who was counted the best pistol shot in Austria. The conditions of the match were: 50 shots each at 50 paces, 50 shots at 150 paces, 100 shots at 400 paces. The dates were fixed and the shooting occupied two days. The weapons used were heavy single shot pistols known as the Postler model, of about .38 caliber, and using a cartridge similar in shape and containing about the charge of powder and lead as in the .44 caliber Winchester model 73 rifle shell. The targets for the shorter distances were similar to the German ring target. The carton being a trifle over one inch in diameter, surrounded by 11/16 inch rings; the carton counted 12, the other circles counted down to 1; the diameter of the 1 or outer circle being 16 1/8 inches. The target used at 400 paces, 46 inches high by 25 in width, containing a rectangular space with half semicircle ends added, divided into 10.16 inch spaces, evidently to gibe the shooter the benefit of line shots, the count being from 20 down to 1. The Austrians believed Chevalier Paine might excel at the shorter distances, but believed that his opponent would surpass him and win the aggregate by his superiority at the longer distance. The result of the match was as follows:

50 paces, Paine, 196; Schulhof, 99
150 paces, Paine, 234; Schulhof, 157
400 paces, Paine, 363; Schulhof, 285

His tour through Russia was an interesting and profitable one, and there were incidents sufficient to make an interesting book. Entering a country like Russia, with arms and ammunition, was considered to be by the officials a piece of unequaled audacity. But when the barriers to his giving exhibitions were removed, he was commanded to appear before the Czar, and his exhibition so pleased him that he sent his written expressions of the pleasure he experienced in witnessing his feats of marksmanship, and gave his permission to exhibit throughout his domain.

The same triumphs awaited Chevalier Paine in his trips through Spain, Portugal, Germany, and the other countries visited. In Germany, he appeared before the Imperial family, Price Bismarck, Von Moltke, and General Kameke, Minister of War, their suits, and 4000 German troops, and also before King Alphonso of Spain.

The King of Portugal is an ardent sportsman, and was roused to an unusual degree of enthusiasm when he witnessed the artistic and marvelous feats of marksmanship by Chevalier Paine. The acknowledged leading tenor of the Old World had, a few nights before the Chevalier's exhibition, elicited from His Highness faint applause. When Chevalier Paine performed difficult feats, all the enthusiasm in the nature of the sportsman was aroused, and leaning forward from his box, he cast aside his imperial dignity and bestowed upon the artist such lavish applause as had never before been witnessed. And, not content with this exhibition, he commanded the Chevalier to appear before him at the palace, where, after the exhibition was repeated, the King and the artist alternately shot the Stevens pistol at a wooden balloon on the lawn. A few days later he decorated the subject of this sketch, declaring him a Knight and Chevalier of the Royal Order of Jesus Christ, an ancient military order of Portugal, and accompanying the papers with the insignia of the rank.

The result of the extensive European career was a world-wide reputation and a good pecuniary harvest, and he returned to America with costly and elegant souvenirs from many of the nobility of the Old World.

Chevalier Paine has appeared before the public for a number of years as a professional shot, but he is glad of an opportunity to mingle with gentlemen amateurs, and gladly accepted an invitation extended a few months ago to visit the fall meeting of the Massachusetts Rifle Association at Walnut Hill. The revolver-match then running was on the Standard American target, 5 shots at 25 yards. He shot in this match, and soon recorded, out of a possible 50, the following: 48 48 49 49 50 = 244

He then retired, and the other participants in the match shot for three days, at the end of which the highest aggregate secured was 234 points.

The fine shooting done by Chevalier Paine at the fall meeting created a desire to see his shot with an Army revolver at a distance of 50 yards, and *The Rifle* arranged for such an exhibition, which took place at Walnut Hill, Oct 15 1886. He shot the Smith & Wesson .44 cal. Russian model revolver, using factory ammunition, and secured 791 in 100 shots. This score has never been equaled, but it was not satisfactory to Chevalier Paine, and (*The Rifle)* again arranged for a second exhibition, which took place March 18.

The same Russian model Smith & Wesson, .44 cal. revolver, with 6 ½ inch barrel was used. The Standard American target was used. The match was fired in scores of ten shots as follows:

9 5 7 10 10 10 9 10 9 8 = 87
7 6 6 7 6 9 9 10 7 5 = 72
10 9 10 7 7 7 9 10 9 7 = 85
10 10 9 7 9 6 7 7 10 9 = 84
10 10 6 10 10 8 10 7 10 9 = 90
9 8 7 8 7 9 10 6 8 7 = 79
10 8 9 9 8 10 9 8 6 9 = 86
10 7 8 9 10 9 7 9 10 7 = 86
8 8 8 6 10 9 7 9 10 7 = 82
10 6 9 10 9 8 7 10 9 9 = 87

It will be observed that 70 of the 100 shots were bull's-eyes; 29 of the shots were tens, or in the 3 36/100 circle. The first 10 shots broke all previous 10 shot records; the fifth string, counting 90, stands today as the best 10 shot record under the above conditions. The aggregate of 841 for the 100 shots is 50 points over his previous record, and 59 points more than has even been secured by any other individual in a 100 shot match. During the firing of the 100 shots, which occupied about 85 minutes, he did not take the revolver down for a second sight. The exhibition was witnessed by a large number of spectators, and it was, undoubtedly, the finest exhibition of shooting with the revolver ever seen in America.

Mr. J.S. Sumner's 1888

Since publishing the information relative to the revival of long-range rifle shooting, I have met two veterans of this branch, who show the greatest interest in the matter, and promise their hearty cooperation. Mr. J. S. Sumner, who held a national reputation as a long-range rifle shot, says he has never lost interest in the sport, and will certainly be one of the number to shoot if this sport is revived. Uncle Nathan Washburn, who is 74 years of age, declares there is more sport in one day's long-range shooting than in a whole season of rest shooting at 200 yards. He will be glad to again face the targets. As the season is so far advanced it is not likely that any long-range shooting will be done this year, but if the enthusiasm don't ooze out before next spring, the flowers and this old sport may blossom together.

Writing of Mr. J. S. Sumner's rifle shooting recalls an incident in his off-hand shooting. He was not only expert at long range, but was a wonderfully fine shot with a rifle, off-hand. At Walnut Hill, Feb. 28, 1888, he made a clean score of ten consecutive bull's-eyes, which was the second clean score made in this country in a regular 200-yard off-hand match on Creedmoor target. Mr. Sumner, soon after that performance, gave up off-hand rifle shooting and confined his work to long range where he won an enviable reputation.

Massachusetts Rifle Association 1889

The annual meeting and dinner of the Massachusetts Rifle Association was held at Hotel Thorndike, Boston, Jan. 14, 1889. There being about 75 members present. The officers chosen for the ensuing year were as follows: Vice-Presidents, J.B. Fellows, N.C. Nash; Secretary, H.S. Harris; Treasurer, W.C. Prescott; Directors, D.L.F. Chase, O.R. Dickey, H.W. Eager, J.B. Fellows, J.P. Frost, J.A. Frye, H.S. Harris, C.W. Hinman, L.L. Hubbard, J.E. Kelley, N.C. Nash, F.J. Rabbeth, H.T. Rockwell, W.E. Perry, W.C. Prescott.

The choice for President is left for the directors to settle at their first meeting. According to the report of the statistical officer, there were 87 shooting days and 16 matches, the spring meeting and the various matches netting $2122, against $1344 for the last year. The report of the Treasurer G.R. Russell showed a balance of $2819 on hand. The reports of range and trap committees were reported verbally. Frank Cowee, C.B Sanborn and Wm. M. Foster were admitted to membership. After the business of the association had been transacted, the company proceeded to the banqueting hall and partook of a sumptuous repast, after which post-prandial talk was indulged in.

President Hubbard read letters of regret from Gov. Brackett, Mayor Hart, Pres. Eliot of Harvard College, Col. S.E. Blunt, U.S.A., Adjt. Gen. Samuel Dalton, M.V.M., Gen. Francis A. Walker, Hon. W.E. Russell, ex-Gov. Connor of Maine, and Gen. Wingate of New York. He then made some appropriate remarks, as is his wont. He congratulated the association on its success and prosperity, and alluded to the noble and manly sport of rifle shooting, and how it should be encouraged. He referred to the Massachusetts Rifle Association's work, and how from it had sprung the interest in military marksmanship in this state. He alluded to the great work Col. H. T. Rockwell had done in bringing Massachusetts volunteers to their present state of proficiency in rifle practice, and closed by introducing the ex-president of the association and Inspector-General of Rifle Practice of Massachusetts, Col. Horace T. Rockwell.

Colonel Rockwell spoke briefly, giving a history of the advancement made in the militia of the state in rifle shooting, and by referring to the pleasant associations which he had experienced since his connection with the Massachusetts Rifle Association.

President Hubbard then introduced Major James P. Frost, I.R.P., of the Second Brigade of Massachusetts Volunteers, and captain of the team of volunteers, which recently visited England and won such brilliant victories. Major Frost gave a full account of the trip abroad, the details of which have appeared in these columns.

A rousing reception was given Col. E.J. Cram, Inspector-General of Rifle Practice of Maine, who was next introduced. Colonel Cram, as usual, was brim full of enthusiasm on the subject of rifle practice. He alluded to the material in the State of Maine for making superior rifle shots, and instanced as examples of what came from that State by naming Mr. Fred O. Young of San Francisco, Cal., and Lieut. W.G. Hussey, the two gentlemen who recently recorded such scores with Springfield rifles. He also mentioned the names of other riflemen, among them Mr. W. Milton Farrow and Mr. George C. Thaxter-the latter of Carson City, Nevada-all of these gentlemen hailing from the Pine Tree State, and representing what material was still in the State. Maine men, said Colonel Cram, considering the number of volunteers and organizations in the State, he would not hesitate to pit them against an equal number from any section. He thought the recent records made by the Maine volunteers in skirmish firing would be difficult to equal by any similar number of men.

Mr. William Hayes of Newark, N.J., known from Maine to California as a superior rifle shot and devout devotee to the spiral tube, followed Colonel Cram. Mr. Hayes spoke of the ruling passion of many riflemen to experiment, and thought it a poor thing to do to experiment with ammunition in matches. He learned more last fall, when he visited Walnut Hill at the fall meeting, than he had known before; for he found wonderful ammunition there, and bullets spinning accurately which he thought was impossible to rely on. He even found Col. Cram could shoot a bullet that was not round with accuracy. Reference was made to the superior results to be obtained by the average man by shooting the small-caliber rifles, stating that with the modern small-bore rifle the marksman could, without great fatigue, shoot through a three-days' tournament. He then gave his own ideas about target rifles, describing the one previously mentioned in these columns. In closing, Mr. Hayes stated his belief that Massachusetts led the world in rifle shooting, and in developing the rifle and various appurtenances connected with the sport.

Capt. W.H. Jackson, the well-known veteran rifleman, was next called upon, and made some interesting remarks.

Mr. James. A. Frye then read an original poem.

Massachusetts Rifle Association, 1889

When the history of Old Massachusetts began,
Its first pages were made by that stout little man
Who planted the seed which to-day bears such fruit-
Myles Standish, who not only prayed, but could shoot.
If to-day we could see him, how queer he would look!
Just imagine the awkward position he took,
When, with gun set in rest, his sight he would catch
And then touch the whole affair off with a match.
His bullet - why, pshaw! anybody could dodge it
Ere the match lit the powder that had to dislodge it!
One would think so, at least, but the chronicles tell
How Old Wattawamat once tried it - and fell.
I'm convinced - you, of course, can believe it or not-
That the Puritans knew how to *hit* when they shot.
But this, after all, may not seem quite so strange
When we stop to reflect that they shot at short range;
Not a bad thing for *them,* when it came to the rub,
Since their guns were more deadly when used as a club.
Ah, well! It is easy to poke fun in rhymes
At the men who were champion shots in those times,
Yet they first brought the sport that we love to this shore,
And our rifles have sprung from the matchlocks of yore.
Let a century pass, and we come to the year
When Old England was shown - and the lesson cost dear-
That the men of New England could draw a fine sight.
How well that was proved at the Lexington fight!
Just beyond us, with only the river between,
Stands the tall granite shaft on its hillock of green
That keeps watch o'er the spot where our riflemen's lead
Strewed the slope with such terrible windrows of dead.
So on many a field, in the days that are gone,
And in many a strait that seemed well nigh forlorn,
The men of the Bay State were found at the front,
Doing nobly their duty - and bearing the brunt.
Our ancestors surely had practice enough;
And their eyes were unerring; their sinews were tough;

So, tho' odds were against them, when once they'd begun
They shot the match out to the end - and they won!
A gun-shot from where we are sitting to-night-
By the gathering shadows just hid from our sight-
There's a monument built to keep fresh the renown
Of the men who went on to the front from this town
In the war that we fought with the seceding States.
On its face there's a tablet of bronze which relates,
In a few simple words, how their country they served
To the death - that the Union might still be preserved
Massachusetts is proud of the deeds that were done
By her riflemen then - back in dark '61.
Now these echoes of war sound but faint to the ear,
For we've lived on in quiet for many a year.
But we've kept up the custom our fathers began-
And old Massachusetts is still in the van!
In the fierce shock of war she was *first,* and in peace
She yet holds that proud place. May her fame still increase!
Tradition and history the lesson have taught
That skill with the rifle - in war or in sport-
Gives men self - reliance. No breastplate of steel
Could inspire the confidence sharpshooters feel.
Keen of eye, strong of arm, youll' the riflemen find;
Neither puny in body, nor feeble in mind;
And in reading the page of the past you will see
That the nation that shoots is the nation that's *free.*
For old Massachusetts ' twould be a dark day
We who meet here to - night have, for years, done our part
In preventing that skill from becoming lost art.
'Tis a right worthy aim! May this club live and thrive,
And long keep the science of shooting alive!
So I give you to - night that good, time - honored toast,
"Massachusetts, and the record her riflemen boast!"

Mr. Charles H. Eastman

Of the Massachusetts Rifle Association has just returned to Boston from a very successful hunting trip to Maine and New Brunswick, where he has been in company with Mr. S. W. Card, also a member of the above association. Besides these two gentlemen the party included the wife and daughter of Mr. Card. For several years Mr. Card has repaired to the section visited this year, in the spring and in shooting in the autumn; but the chief object of his outings is to absent himself from business, and he finds several weeks of life in the woods of great benefit to him.

The party found very comfortable quarters by fitting up a large flat-bottomed scow, thus giving a separate apartment for the ladies of the party, bunks, and even a dining-table and crockery. This boat was towed from place to place, and hunting trips made to desired points. Thus the party had the choice of living in a tent or on board the boat, and had the convenience of very comfortable quarters ready to receive them at anytime, without the bother and labor of building a camp every time they changed their quarters.

During the trip Mr. Eastman killed two bull caribou. One of the caribou was shot on a barren and one in dense thicket. The latter was shot at noon, while Mr. Eastman and his guide were making a pot of tea. They had hunted through the morning without seeing signs of game, and had stopped for luncheon and noon rest. A fire had been started, when Mr. Eastman heard the cracking of twigs. Nearby was a tree stump and, rifle in hand, he mounted the stump, where he at once saw one caribou making off through the woods.

Mr. J.E. Kelley 1894

Mr. J.E. Kelley,
winner of the Off-hand Rifle Championship of Massachusetts

Off-hand Rifle Championship of Massachusetts 1894

On April 14 there occurred at the range of the Massachusetts Rifle Association at Walnut Hill, an event which deserves more than a passing notice. It was the conclusion of the match known as the Off-hand Rifle Championship of Massachusetts. This event was inaugurated in June, 1892. This match was open to all persons residing in the state. It called for 20 shots off-hand, at a distance of 200 yards, on the Standard American target. A person winning the match received an elegant gold medal. The holder of the medal was to defend the championship title against all comers within one month after being challenged, or forfeit the medal. To retain the medal permanently, with the title of champion in this style of shooting, for the State, it was necessary to win it ten times, or five times consecutively, or to hold it consecutively for one year.

In these days a medal, however costly and beautiful, *does* not always mean much. I have taken a deep interest in the shooting of Mr. Kelley, because I have been familiar with his shooting career since he first began shooting in public. He has for many year been fond of a rifle, but it is only within a few years that he commenced shooting regularly at the range of the Massachusetts Rifle Association. He was a frequent visitor to the old Massachusetts gallery when it was in existence, and showed unusual skill at that time. I then prophesied, if he ever visited Walnut Hill, he would take rank among the best shots of that famous club. Almost from his first appearance there he showed the highest order of skill, and he had only shot a few months when it was recognized that he was among the most reliable shots of the club. It should be stated here that Walnut Hill is not an easy range on which to shoot. This has become apparent to me since I have visited the rifle ranges in other parts of the country. When there is much wind, it is one of the hard ranges of the country; with little or no wind it is favorable for good scores, because the surrounding are inspiring, and every facility offered for comfort and convenience in shooting. But there is no swarth cut through the forest; the range is not under an embankment, to prevent the wind affecting the bullet during its flight. The scores here presented have been shot often under most unfavorable weather conditions under all circumstances. They, to me, show Mr. Kelley fairly merits the honor of the Off-hand Rifle Champion of Massachusetts, an honor which, knowing the man as I do, I am certain he will wear with becoming modesty.

Massachusetts State Championship, with Rifle, Off-hand
J.E. Kelley

October 21,	1892	=171
January 7,	1893	=161
February 18,	1893	=161
March 11,	1893	=163
May 6,	1893	=156
November 18,	1893	=160
December 16,	1893	=172
January 6,	1894	=167
March 31,	1894	=170
April 14,	1894	=157
		1638

Average for ten shots, 81-9-10

Mr. D.L.F. Chase

It is a noticeable fact that as a sportsman becomes prominent by his skill, brothers of the fraternity wish to know as much as possible about him. This is especially true of riflemen who excel. If one of the fraternity makes a brilliant score, and it is recorded in the columns of a sportsman's paper, that gentleman's name is looked for each week by riflemen throughout the country. If he follows his first brilliant performance by other fine scores, inquiries will be made as to the rifle used, the manner of loading, the character of the ammunition, and all the details of the shooting, and not a few will inquire as to the personal appearance of the famous marksman.

Frequent reference has been made in the columns of *Shooting and Fishing*, during the past few years, to Mr. D. L. F. Chase, who has become prominent on account of the wonderful scores he has made in the peculiar style of rifle shooting which he has followed.

It has been my privilege to follow Mr. Chase's shooting from his first attempts until within a few months, and I have seen him rise from a tyro to an expert. Were I asked to name some of the best rifle shots in this country, Mr. Chase's name would be one of the first to occur to me, and I believe those of the readers of *Shooting and Fishing* who are acquainted with his shooting will agree with me, that no more intelligent or more skillful rifleman can be found in his style of shooting.

It was in 1885 that he became interested in rifle shooting, and his object in participating in this sport was solely for recreation. His first rifle was a .38 caliber rim-fire Ballard, with which arm he commenced shooting at Walnut Hill. Like many other tyros, he believed that the beautifully finished spiral tube and the ready made cartridges from a world famous factory composed all that could possibly be desired in the way of a shooting outfit. But like other riflemen who have entertained similar ideas, a single trial at a rifle range where experts congregate convinced him that if he wished to shoot his way to a place among the recognized experts, he must procure a rifle shooting different ammunition. He at once purchased a .38-55 Ballard of the usual weight and style, and began to learn the art of rest shooting. An adjunct to such shooting is loading shells, making bullets, and devising improvements in loading tools and sights, all of which received the careful attention of this rifleman. Although Mr. Chase was graduated from Harvard University, and is an exceptionally intelligent man, his tastes and occupation are in the line of mechanics, and his judgment and skill in that direction are well known to all of his associates; consequently, he took naturally to this work in connection with rifle shooting.

In appearance Mr. Chase is slight in stature, and not having the robust health and sturdy build which characterizes most of the off-hand shooters, he naturally took to rest shooting; besides, the science of rifle shooting had a fascination for him, and that style of shooting undoubtedly appeals more strongly to those with such inclinations. His progress was excellent. In a short time scores of 97 and 98 were frequently found credited to him. These scores were shot on the Standard American target before the 11 and 12 circles were added, as it was thought then that target was sufficiently fine for rest shooting.

After about nine months practice, Mr. Chase recorded his first clean score of 100. At that time it was considered a great achievement. I well remember when he recorded that score. Having fired 7 shots, it was whispered about the shooting pavilion that Mr. Chase was likely to make the possible. He fired his 8th shot, which was a 10, when that painful

stillness which steals over an assemblage of riflemen when a fine score is nearing completion, was apparent. The 9th shot was fired, and a 10 scored. The excitement increased as did the stillness. As he went to the firing point to fire the last shot, half the men in the pavilion left their seats and craned their necks to see the value of the last shot, while a portion of them took possession of the telescopes, all of the glasses being turned on the target. The last shot was fired and marked a 10. One rather envious rifleman present remarked that it was a cold to, which meant the bullet barely touched the 10 line. This was a fact, but it was considered a great performance, and congratulations were in order.

This perrformance was not repeated by Mr. Chase for more than six months. Such shootlng was creditable at that time at Walnut Hill, and in fact throughout the country where breechloading rifles were used; but during the last two or three years, 30, 40, and 50 consecutive 10's have been made.

In 1887 the 11 and 12 circles were added to the Standard target. WIth these circles the target is known as the Standard American rest target, and it is the custom of most clubs at the present time to use the target with these circles for both off-hand and rest shooting, but nothing above 10 is counted, even when the shots are on and within the 11 and 12 circles, if shooting off-hand. After the addition of these circles Mr. Chase continued shooting, but kept no record of scores below 110. In a short time several scores of 114 and one of 115 were recorded by him; these scores being his highest until September, 1888, when he scored 116 in a match. This and his previous fine shooting caused him to be looked upon by the members of the Massachusetts Rifle Association, if I may use the expressions, as both the running mate and hot competitor of Mr. F. J. Rabbeth, and many were the sharp contests between these two gentlemen, always, though, of a friendly character. In August, 1890, Mr. Chase scored 32 consecutive 10's. During this run he made consecutive 10 shot scores amounting to 115, 108, and 109.

Up to this time Mr. Chase's shooting was all done with a plain 9 1/2 pound Ballard rifle with a 28 inch barrel, out of which he had fired about 8ooo shots. Here is a fact which will doubtless be read with interest by riflemen who are seeking information as to the life of a rifle, for it shows that after firing more than 8000 shots the rifle possesses sufficient accuracy to place 32 consecutive shots on and within a circle 3.36 inches in diameter. It is also worthy of note that Mr. Chase retained that barrel, and last summer screwed it back into the frame again after its long rest, and went afield woodchuck shooting. He succeeded in killing eighteen New Hampshire woodchucks.

Many riflemen would have been satisfied with their rifle after this achievement; but those who are not fascinated with the art of rifle shooting perhaps are not aware that it is characteristic with an enthusiastic rifleman to constantly strive to do better work. As soon as Mr. Chase learned that his rifle and ammunition were capable of this shooting, he aspired to do finer work. His record was rich enough in 10's, but according to his idea there should be more 12's in his scores, and in 1891 he procured a new heavy Ballard barrel. I well remember the struggle this persistent rifleman had with that barrel. His work was carefully watched by brother riflemen, and the remarks elicited at various times were amusing. I often heard such expressions as this: "Chase was not satisfied to let well enough alone;" "he is unreasonable to expect to do finer work;" and similar remarks. But he continued to experiment, and the result of his work has been told in an article contributed to *Shooting and*

Fishing some time ago, entitled, Conquering a Stubborn Rifle. He did conquer' it thoroughly, and when he had got rifle and ammunition to working well, he began to record scores of 114 and 115 with noticeable frequency. Then came a score of 117, which was his highest at that time. He then made a run of 10 consecutive 12's, but they were unfortunately in parts of two scores, but the fact is just as Interesting as if in one score, and it demonstrated that 120 is among the possibilities.

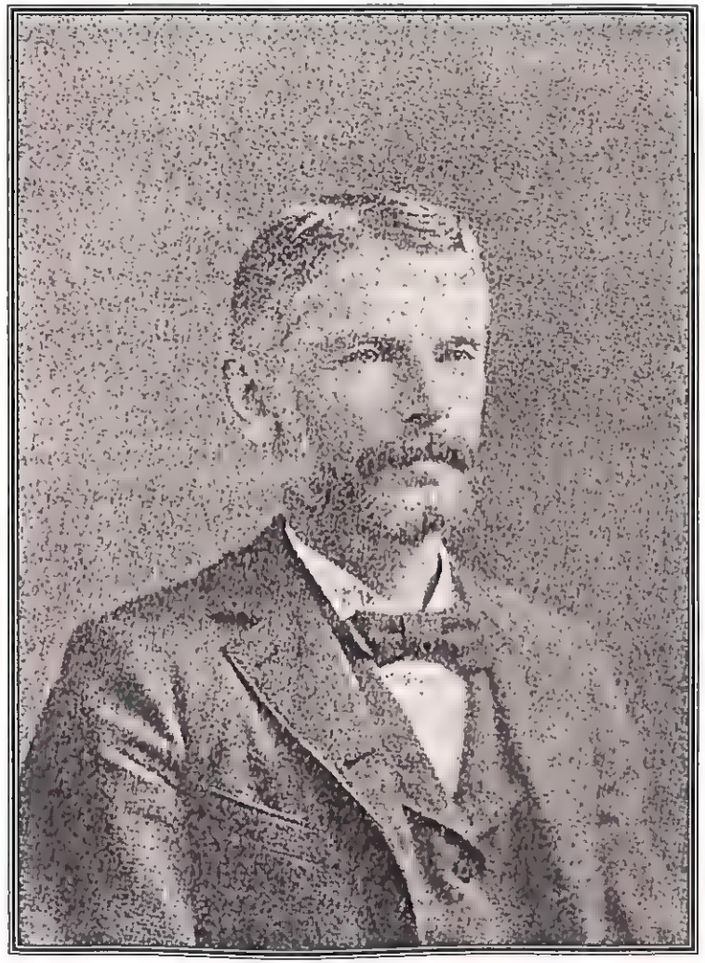
It is my privilege here to record what seems to me a most interesting fact. Up to this time all of Mr. Chase's shooting was done with aperture sights; that is, the plain Vernier sight on grip, and a sight containing an aperture attached to the muzzle end.

About this time the telescope sight was introduced at Walnut Hill, and Mr. Chase substituted a telescope for the regular target sights. I have many times asked Mr. Chase to give me his candid opinion in relation to the respective merits of the two sights, being especially anxious to learn if he believed the telescope sight was the better of the two, or conducive to making better scores. He has told me that this change, though apparently improving his average with his old barrel, did not enable him to surpass or equal the 117 with the rifle with which he made that score. Last year he procured another barrel, which was a No, 4 Winchester, and from the first it has proved a good, steady shooter; in fact. a remarkable shooter. With this Winchester barrel he has made 9 scores of 115, 7 of 116, of 117, 2 of 118, and 1 of 119. With this shooting is a run of 13 consecutive 12's, in two scores, and a run of 10 successive 12's, which was made in March last. This has fixed the impression in the minds of riflemen that the possible will some day he made, and I shall not be surprised to learn that this intelligent rifleman is the one who has made it.

In addition to the fine shooting which Mr. Chase has done are many improvements in the paraphernalia of a rifleman, some of which are well known to the readers of *Shooting and Fishing*. His system of patching, which I believe he does not claim to have originated, yet he was the first to suggest it at Walnut Hill, and if it had been used elsewhere by some of the shooters of muzzleloading rifles, it was not generally known. It consists of a patch going once around the bullet, the ends meeting, thereby insuring the parting of the patch from the bullet when it leaves the muzzle of the rifle. This improvement was suggested by the fact that frequently the patch, when wound around the bullet, adheres to the bullet through its entire flight, bullets having been found in the pit back of the targets with the patches still clinging to them, naturally suggesting inaccuracy. In addition to this improvement, he devised a rear wind gauge sight soon after the commencement of his rifle shooting career, which he used up to the time he adopted the telescope sight. He has also devised bullet seaters and other tools to use in rifle shooting.

One of the characteristics of this rifleman which has pleased me highly, is his willingness always to impart his information to brother riflemen. I do not think that anyone ever applied to him for advice that was refused, and I know of many valuable suggestions he has made to brother riflemen to extricate them from the difficulties into which they had fallen. Mr. Chase is cool and collected under the most trying circumstances, which, with his keen perception, his knowledge of the effects of lights and winds, his intelligence, and his enthusiasm for rifle shootIng, has raised him to a position far above that which the average rifleman can hope to attain.

The name of F. Daniels may he frequently found in the report of the rifle shooting at Walnut Hill, and attached to that name are scores which any rifleman might well be proud of. This is Mr. Chase's shooting name, which he adopted early in his carter as a rifleman, a name which is well known to the rifle shooting fraternity ot this country.



Mr. D.L.F. Chase

Skill at the Target

It has many times been written, that target shooting with the rifle is no aid to proficiency in game shooting. Some if those who have written thus are men of considerable experience in big game shooting, and, no doubt, many are influenced by what these men have written. In my experience I have found that a fine rifle shot is likely to be successful in either target or game shooting, although it may take some time to become accustomed to different surroundings and conditions.

I have lately met many sportsmen who have enjoyed big game shooting during the season just closed, and most of them have been successful. But this I have noticed: The most successful are those who shoot a rifle with great regularity, and with skill at the target. Go to Walnut Hill on any season during the close season on big game, and you will probably see the most successful hunters shooting small caliber target rifles, of .32, .35, or .38-caliber; rifles that have been ridiculed by some writers, claiming they are not practical. When the big game shooting opens a number of these fine target shots will be missed, and if you inquire for them you will probably be told that they are on a hunting trip in Colorado, Maine, New Brunswick, or some other place.

These men shoot small calibered rifles at the target, generally a .32 or a .35, but when they go hunting they are equipped with a .45 or .50-caliber, with a heavy charge of powder, and the most killing bullet they can procure. They shoot the lightly charged match rifle at the target with wonderful skill, and when they hunt big game with heavily charged hunting rifles they are, as a rule, among the most successful. Many men expect to despise shooting a rifle at the target, and their trite remarks about never shooting anything but game, generally means that they do not care to show how poorly they shoot. I have seen enough to convince me that a fine target shot is likely to be a fine game shot.

There are two times in the year when hunting rifles are shot a good deal at Walnut Hill; they are directly after the fall or winter hunt, and just before the opening of the season Those shooting hunting rifles after returning from a hunt have generally conceived some new ideas of a rifle, a sight, or some new bullet or charge, and they shoot until they satisfied themselves of the success or failure of the new idea, after which the rifle is set aside for next season's hunt. The second time is just prior to the hunt, when the rifles are shot to see if the sights are in line, and ammunition proper, and to learn the elevations.

Major C. C. Foster

Surgeon of the Fifth Massachusetts Infantry and a member of the Massachusetts Rifle Association, has recently returned from his annual hunting trip in Colorado. Dr. Foster has visited that state for several years, always meeting with excellent success in hunting. This year he found game fully as abundant as in former years, and was successful in killing antelope, elk, and deer. this report of the abundance of game in Colorado is evidence that the increased protection given has checked the diminution of game. Dr. Foster's favorite bunting rifle is a .45-70 Winchester repeater, the ammunition for which is loaded with grains of Ducking powder and the hollow-pointed 330-grain bullet.

Mr. D. Kirkwood

Novelties in firearms always interest me, and I believe sportsmen are interested to hear of new and novel devices in firearms. Dropping into the gun store of Mr. D. Kirkwood of Elm Street, Boston, last week I was shown a 4-barrel gun, which that ingenious artisan had about finished. This gun was a decided novelty. I had never seen such an arm, although I have in my scrap book a cut of a 4-barrel gun made by Mr. Charles Lancaster of London, England.

Many sportsmen believe it is not possible to construct a 4-barrel gun with symmetry and balance, but the gun of which I write is a beautifully balanced gun, light, weighing about seven pounds, and one of the most ingenious and creditable pieces of gun mechanism it has ever been my privilege to inspect. There are two 20-gauge shot barrels: one .32-caliber shot barrel for collecting small birds, warblers warbles, and a rifle barrel bored and rifled for the .25-20 cartridge. The barrels are twenty-six inches long. Each of the rifles is fired by a different lock, hammer, and trigger; there are two external and two internal hammers. The stock is the same as any finely-made shotgun, and a short distance away from the gun one would not think it possible that the arm had four barrels all capable of doing fine work. This gun was built to order for a well-known Cambridge naturalist.

I had not recovered from my surprise at seeing the above triumph of the gunmaker's art, when another arm was submitted for my inspection. The second arm was what might be called a 3-barrel Paradox gun. There are two 16-bore barrels side by side, as shotguns are made, these barrels being rifled a few inches near the muzzle; under these barrels is a .38-caliber rifle barrel chambered for the .38-55 shell. The 16-bore barrels will shoot shot at twenty-five yards about as well as a full-choked gun at forty yards, and, at the latter distance, the patterns made are about the same as made with a cylinder-bore shotgun. These barrels, when used to shoot a hollow-pointed conical bullet, shoot with sufficient accuracy for large game shooting; that is, so as to hit a 3-inch bull's-eye with right and left barrel at a distance of fifty yards.

I was at Walnut Hill on Saturday last, and, noticing a group of riflemen engaged in an animated discussion, I thought more than likely there would be a good place to find a gleaning. The cause of the gathering was Mr. D. L. F. Chase, the expert rest shot, who had brought a new telescope to the range and attached it to his .38-caliber rifle. The new telescope created the discussion, for it was only eighteen inches in length, and Mr. Chase explained that he made it. Some weeks ago, I mentioned a lot of telescopes which had been made for military rifles during the war of the Rebellion, and which had laid in an optician's store in Boston for many years. Within a week from the time that gleaning appeared in *Shooting and Fishing,* all of those telescopes were sold. Mr. Chase was one of the purchasers, and, with his wonderful ingenuity and skill, he made a new tube and fitted the lenses of his war telescope to it. Some of the boys laughed, and several times I heard the remark, "have you seen Mr. Chase's sawed off telescope?" Some said, "you can't do any good work with so short a telescope." "Yes," said another rifleman, "the makers of telescopes for rifles have experimented exhaustively with tubes of various lengths."

"I don't see any good reason why good shooting can't be done with it," quietly remarked Mr. Chase.

M.R.A. Annual Report 1893

The annual report of the Massachusetts Rifle Association for the year ending Jan. 1, 1893 has been published, and is full of interesting records of this healthy organization. Although some of the matter contained in this report was published at the annual meeting, and at the conclusion of certain matches, yet a resume of the contents will doubtless prove interesting to many readers of *Shooting and Fishing.*

At the present time the rolls of the Association show a list of 215 members. These are arranged in alphabetical order, giving the date of joining the Association, and the birthplace of each member. Although this is a Massachusetts Association, its membership includes gentlemen in various sections of this country. Several of the most interesting members reside in distant states, and almost annually pay a visit to Boston, largely for the sport and associations connected with rifle shooting at Walnut Hill. No age is necessary to belong to this Association, and its members are from two or three years of age to past four score.

The Treasurer's report shows perhaps as well as anything the healthy condition of this organization. Besides the range of about fifty acres in extent, and elegant and commodious club house, electric bells from 500 yard firing pits, as well as from the 200 yard firing points to the pits, and every device which can insure comfort in shooting and correctness in marking, all of which is paid for with no outstanding debts, there is a handsome balance of $2500. There were eighty-six shooting days last year, and twenty-nine matches for rifle and pistol, we learn from the statistical officer's report. This report also shows the proficiency of the best marksmen of this Association.

The first that attract our attention, is the enviable record made by Mr. J. E. Kelley, certainly one of the most reliable off-hand match rifle shots in this country, a man, who hold the form as a rule under the most trying ordeal. He received a gold medal as a trophy last year for making the highest aggregate of ten scores of ten shots each in off-hand shooting. These scores were as follows:

89 89 89 89 88 88 88 88 87 87; total 882.

The next hero is Mr. F. J. Rabbeth, of whom nearly all riflemen have heard, a man of great ingenuity and skill, who frequently surprises the riflemen at Walnut Hill by his wonderful rest shooting. He captured the trophy for the ten best scores of ten shots each at rest. His record was ----116 116 116 116 116 116 116 115 115 115; total, 1157.

Secretary Henry S. Harris, whose particular skill seems to be in the pistol, was the winner of the trophy for the ten best scores of ten shots each with a pistol. He has to his credit the following scores:

97 96 95 95 95 95 95 95 95 95; total. 953.

Private John L. Fowle was the winner of the trophy given for the best record with military rifle. The different matches are given with the names of the winners, and the records are very interesting.

There is a shotgun department of the Association, and a full report of the trap shooting committee is given in the report.

The Danger of Shooting Exhibitions

Madame Paine

During my experience in newspaper work for many years, being much interested in firearms, I was naturally a close observer of all public shooting exhibitions. I have seen the late Ira Paine's comely wife tremble like a hounded deer before she went upon the stage to aid her husband in his wonderful shooting act. There was cause for her alarm. Several nights I stood in the wing of a stage expecting to see that beautiful woman killed.

I have seen Paine miss the card entirely, which she held in her hand for him to shoot at, and although I have seen him puncture the enlarged ace of hearts many times successively, I have seen the shot graze the fingers of Madame Paine. Knowing wild shots were occasionally made, I naturally was alarmed when the act came for shooting a glass ball from the helmet on the top of Madame Paine's head. It is true that the helmet was made of steel, but, had a .22-caliber bullet struck it right, it would have pierced her brain.

I remember well how I plead with Ira Paine to strengthen the trigger-pull on his revolver. It was scarcely over a pound pull, and the veteran gunsmith of Boston, W. R. Schaefer, was horrified when Paine's revolvers were brought to his well-known establishment for some slight repairs. Paine had a habit of cocking the revolver while it was pointed at an angle of forty-five degrees, and bringing the arm down when aiming at the object he desired to hit. He told me this was a precautionary habit on his part. Several times this revolver was discharged owing to the light trigger-pull, for it would not stand cocked at all times. I did not wonder that Madame Paine trembled. She could scarcely speak from fright at times when she stepped on to the stage of a well-known Boston theater.

The Bennett Brothers

When they were training for their dueling act, in which a glass ball was placed on the top of the helmet of each, at a given signal they both fired, and generally each smashed the glass ball on top of the other's helmet. Once while this act was being performed a cartridge hung fire, and the bullet struck the helmet of Mr. F. E. Bennett, knocking it from his head.

Mr. Frank E. Butler

The well-known manager of Annie Oakley has a deep furrow across his forehead, which was caused by placing an object on his head, which his partner would shoot therefrom. There was a hang-fire in this case, I believe. At any rate, the bullet struck his forehead, and plowed along through the flesh, making a wound, fortunately not fatal, but serious enough to cause him ever afterward to eschew such foolhardy performances.

I have twice been called upon to write an account of the accidental killing of women who permitted objects to be shot from their heads in public exhibitions.

I think the bill before Massachusetts Legislature will become a law, and I hope it will. Even if the masters of the art of shooting by their skill secure immunity from danger, they have thousands of imitators, not only on the cheap variety show stages, but among the young shooters off the stage, who foolishly attempt to emulate these master shooters, and as the records of every cartridge factory in the country show there are flying shots in all amnmunition, it is proper that laws should be made to prevent reckless and ignorant people from such performances.

Mr. Rabbeth's Big Score

The weather conditions were fine at Walnut Hill Range on Saturday, September 23, and not having been entirely satisfied with results, of late, I concluded to *try* a couple of variations from my usual methods of manipulating my rifle. I usually shoot without using any lubricant, but concluded to try lubricating with lard, by passing a swab slightly saturated with this material through the lands before each shot. I also folded the Chase patch about one-sixteenth inch over the base of bullet, powder and bullet as usual; i.e., 60 grains F.G. Hazard's powder; bullet, 330 grains unswaged: temper about one to thirty. Blotting paper wad on powder; bullet, a very easy fit; patch, .0015 thick. After shooting a few sighting shots, I made the following consecutive shoots and scores;

No. 1--11-12-12-12-10-12-12-11-12-11=115
No. 2--12-12-12-12-12-12-11-12-12-12=119
No. 3--12-12-11-11-12-12-10-11-12-12=115
No. 4--12-12-12-11-11-12-12-12-12-12=118

I cannot say that I would not have done as well had I not lubricated tile lands or crimped the patch, but forty consecutive shots, all elevens or better, except two tens, is not bad. Evidently, these methods cannot be very detrimental to my rifle, which has a Winchester barrel rifled with 12-grooves, .001 inch in depth; weight as shot about 11 1/2 pounds.

Mr. O. M. Jewell, of Lawrence, Mass., the veteran of many a hard-fought battle before the butts at Creedmoor and other ranges, was present and succeeded in putting up a score of ninety-two, off-hand. We received each other's congratulations, and decided that we would not join tile ranks of the "has beens" just yet.

Apropos to tile controversy regarding the stretching of bullets have to say, that I get very fair results with tile factory .25-86 grain bullet of pure lead. I use thirty grains of strong powder (Hazard's Ducking, No. 3) and seat the bullet 1/4 inch in shell. I have not caught any of these bullets uninjured, but as I get very fair results shooting with this cartridge, conclude that the bullets do not stretch. This mystery has not yet been explained to my satisfaction, and shall hope to he further enlightened regarding this most mysterious phenomenon in further columns of *(Shooting and Fishing).* F.J. Rabbeth

Major C. C. Foster

A surgeon of the Fifth Massachusetts Infantry, and member of the Massachusetts Rifle Association, returned to Boston last week from a hunting trip to Colorado. Major Foster found deer very abundant, but succeeded in killing but one bull elk (wapiti). The snow interfered greatly with his hunting.

This gentleman is one of the individuals who has experimented assiduously with many varieties of small bore rifles for grouse shooting. He carried with him on his trip to Colorado a Winchester rifle, .45-70, the cartridge loaded with the Ideal Company's hollow-pointed bullet, for big game, and a Stevens pistol bored and chambered for the .25 rim-fired Stevens Special cartridge. He found this latter cartridge a fine one for grouse, but agrees with what I stated in last week's gleanings, that a pocket rifle is the surest arm. His choice would be one with a 15-inch barrel and for the .25 rim-fire cartridge.

Pocket Revolver Competition at Walnut Hill

On Saturday last there was an informal meeting of those interested in the proposed pocket revolver competition, which is soon to be inaugurated at Walnut Hill and which is expected will become a popular department of shooting throughout the country. It seems evident that no revolver with a barrel of over four inches in length will be recognized as a pocket revolver, and some favor 3 1/2 inches as the maximum length. There will be no restrictions as to shortness of barrel, but it is safe to say that a majority of those interested will choose the longest barrel permitted under the rules, though if the maximum be four inches some may select a revolver with a 3 1/2-inch barrel for greater convenience in carrying the arm. It appears at the present time that the popular length of barrels will be 3 1/2 and four inches. The question of caliber has been discussed informally, and it will later he determined whether rules should he made to further develop the pocket revolver or to cover only such arms as are now on the market. It is thought by some that a revolver made for the .25 rim-fire Stevens special cartridge would prove a powerful as well as an accurate weapon. If this cartridge is not considered, the minimum caliber allowed it will probably be .32. The .22-caliber has as yet found no advocates for the class of shooting. Opinion is divided on the matter of distance. Some favor a small target at short range; others prefer a large target at long range. One shooter thinks a two-inch bull's-eye at 12 yards, the best; another prefers a four-inch bull's-eye at 20 yards; and still another believes in an eight-inch bull's-eye at 30 yards. The distance and size of bull's-eye will be determined after a series of experiments.

On an appointed day in the near future the several manufacturers of revolvers will be invited to offer samples of the various revolvers likely to come under this class, and those recognized will be named later in these columns.

Harris to "Old Fogy"

I noticed in (*Shooting and Fishing)* of October 6, a few remarks from "Old Fogy," in relation to the *target* made by me and published in your paper of September 22. As he labors under an error in believing that the rifle was loaded from the muzzle, I will state that the bullets were seated with a ball seater from the breech into the grooves ahead of the chamber. The loading tube spoken of is a piece of gas pipe of an inch in diameter inside, with the ends swelled to admit any shell from .32 to .44-caliber. To me it seems simple to remove the shell with powder and enter it in chamber behind the bullet. I am well aware that finer scores have been made with both breech and muzzle—loaders than the one I sent you, but it is the best I have ever done in 30 years of rifle shooting. In conclusion I would suggest to "Old Fogy" an easy way to prove the superiority of muzzle-loading rifles. As the best exponents and the finest shooting of breech-loaders are to be found at Walnut Hill, Mass., let some muzzle-loading advocates with his muzzle loader go there and surpass the scores that have been made on that range. I will call the attention of "Old Fogy" to Mr. Rabbeth's shooting with a breech-loading rifle, 38 consecutive shots all in or on a 3 1/4-inch ring, is not so bad, done as it was with peep and globe sights at 200 yards. E. P. Harris, Midland, Crawford Co., Mo.

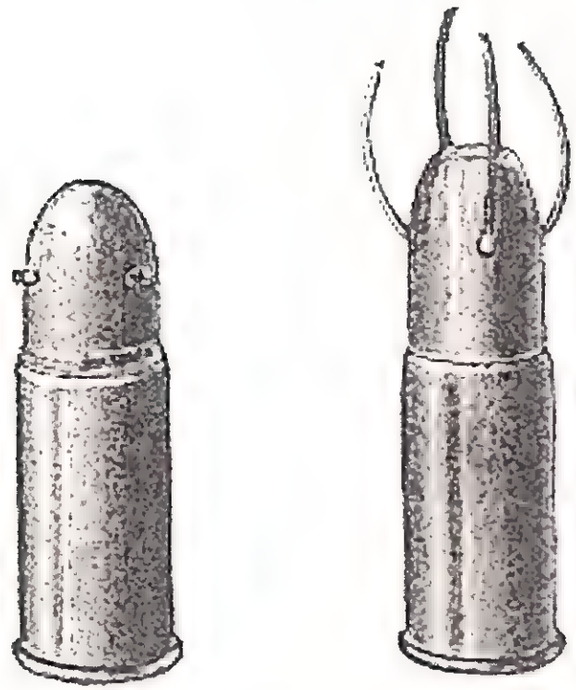
The New Smith & Wesson Cartridge

Some weeks ago, reference was made in these columns to the new cartridge recently invented and perfected by Mr. D. B. Wesson, senior member of the firm of Smith & Wesson, of Springfield, Mass., the famous revolver manufacturer. This cartridge is known as the self-lubricating cartridge, and it was invented by Mr. Wesson with the object of lessening the fouling in revolvers, for it is well known that the accuracy of revolvers is greatly impaired after a few shots, caused by the excessive fouling. The finest shooting revolver in the world, if shot rapidly in a dry atmosphere, is likely to become so inaccurate by fouling, as to greatly affect its usefulness. Mr. Wesson sought to overcome this difficulty in the following manner: the bullet is provided with a core in its base about one-eighth of an inch in diameter. Into this core a copper plug is inserted. The core is filled with lubricant, and at the base of the core is a brass stopper. From the bottom of the core there are four minute passages extending in different directions toward the point of the bullet, coming out at the point above the shoulder; four of these passages are also filled with lubricant. After the discharge of the cartridge, the gas forces the brass to plug up the core, thus driving the lubricant through the four passages above alluded to, and the inventor claims that by this means there is an even distribution of the lubricant along the barrel of the revolver, which keeps the residue moist and the barrel clean. This moisture prevents what is termed by riflemen, freezing onto the barrel, which means that the residue which at the time of firing is in a molten state, cools rapidly, adhering to the barrel with such pertinacity as to permit of removing only with the most vigorous application of brush, and often making it necessary to apply a wire brush and water.

Several hundred rounds of these cartridges, in .38-caliber, were shot from Smith & Wesson revolvers, with barrels of different lengths from 3 1/4 up to 6 inches. The results in every trial were excellent. There is a diminution of recoil which may not be attributed to the construction of the bullet; the non-fouling qualities of the cartridge were conspicuous. Fifty consecutive shots were fired in one test, after which a careful trial was made for accuracy, and a series of shots at fifty yards placed in a group five inches in diameter. Another trial was made, and after shooting a number of shots with the arm, Mr. H. S. Harris, the well-known pistol expert, fired a series of seventeen consecutive shots, offhand, at a distance of fifty yards, on the Standard American target, all of which were bull's-eyes. The revolver used was a Smith & Wesson, with a 6-inch barrel.

Viewing this cartridge solely on the grounds of accuracy, it is in every way a superior cartridge. The radical departure in its construction caused me to watch vigilantly for irregularities in shooting, but I discovered none. There was not a keyhole in the several hundred shots fired, not an unaccountable; and while I am not prepared to say that it was the most accurate cartridge known, I do not hesitate to state that I have never seen any more accurate central-fire cartridge when fired from a revolver. Some of the modern central-fire pistol cartridges have been improved to a great extent during the past few years, to such an extent that they are near perfection, and when a cartridge is produced, of superior merit, it can only be in a small degree superior. It is the opinion of all the expert pistol shots who have shot this new cartridge that it is a cleaner cartridge than those manufactured by the old method, with the lubricant in the cannelures. The new cartridge, in a Smith & Wesson revolver, with a 6-inch barrel, seems to shoot with nearly as much

accuracy as the famous long-rifle cartridge, in a single-shot pistol, with a 10-inch barrel. It is stated that the price of the new cartridge is slightly in advance of the regular products of the factory, but those seeking for the most accurate cartridge will not be influenced against using the cartridge, by the additional cost. To an indifferent shot, the superiority of the ammunition, if it exists, would count for but little. It would probably show to best advantage pistols was prohibited. The ammunition is manufactured by Smith & Wesson at Springfield, Mass., and an illustration of it presented herewith.



Mr. H. G. Dohrman

A member of the Massachusetts Rifle Association, and residing at Stubenville, Ohio, was united in marriage to Miss Carrie D. Pettit, Oct. 20. Mr. Dohrman is one of the most enthusiastic riflemen in this country, and perhaps that accounts for making his wedding trip to Boston and to Walnut Hill. Many members of the club received cards on Saturday, Oct. 22, and in going to Walnut Hill on that day found Mr. Dohrman busily engaged in shooting for the victory medal, while his charming wife was engaged in spotting his shots in his score book. Mr. and Mrs. Dohrman have been in Boston and the vicinity since that day, and have visited the range on each shooting day. Mrs. Dohrman shares the enthusiasm of her husband, and is deeply interested in his rifle shooting.

Hunting in Alaska

As many of the sportsmen have related their experience just before the close of the hunting season, with permission of the editor, I will describe my November deer hunt. We have no game law here in Alaska, and it will most likely be a long time before there is one, however badly it is needed.

During the months of October, November, and December, there were shipped from this place 6799 deer skins, mostly killed by Indians (of whom there are about four hundred) and nineteen out of every twenty were killed for their hides, the meat being left where killed. The white men here skin hunt very little; there are only about fifty of us, when we are all at home; and that is very seldom, as some are away hunting or prospecting most of the time.

We generally take a hunt the last of October, or first of November, for our winter's meat; some of which we freeze, some we dry, but mostly corn down. I am proud to say, I never did or never will, hunt with any party who skin hunts.

But to my hunt.

Nov. 3. I chartered a small steamer of ten tons, and inviting three of my friends, William Taylor, and Fred Lynch, residents of this place, and A. Pike, a wealthy Englishman, who has hunted in all the hunting grounds of the world, a splendid marksman and a jolly good fellow; the 4th, we spent loading and getting ready for sea.

Nov. 5. We steamed away at 2 P.M.; it was raining very hard. Mr. Taylor being an engineer, and Mr. Lynch and myself being acquainted with the waters and handling of a steamer, the only crew we took was a half-breed boy to do the cooking. We ran into Mud Bay at dark and loaded some wood. Fred fell overboard, which was not very pleasant, as the night was dark and weather cold, but with an inward application of the forbidden article and dry clothes, he was soon comfortable.

Nov. 6. Raised anchor at 8 A.M.; at 1 P.M. anchored in small bay at Lebel Island, and turned the dogs ashore, to see if we could get camp meat. They were not long in starting a large doe, which I managed to kill, after missing her three running shots; while I was dressing her, the dogs started a young buck, which Mr. Pike killed. I then called the dogs in.

Nov. 7. Raised anchor at 7 A.M.; at 12:30 I saw a small, dark object moving in the water ahead of us, and taking the glasses, I saw it was a deer. We steamed up to it, lowered the boat, and took him in— a yearling buck. He had attempted to swim the channel against a head wind, and had given out. We took him down by the boiler and warmed him up; he was quite gentle, and slept with the dogs in the hole the balance of the trip. We anchored that evening in Duncan Canal.

Nov. 8. I took a short tramp with the dogs; they ran two otter into their dens. I did not have any matches, so I could not smoke them out. The deer were not thick enough to make it worth a hunt; wind turned to north and snowed heavily.

Nov. 9. Started at daylight, and ran about fifty miles to the west; anchored in small bay.

Nov. 10. All went prospecting for game; Pike killed four, Fred three, Taylor two, and myself three.

Nov. 11. Got the deer on board, and sailed at 12 A.M. Anchored in Tolem Bay at 2 P.M.

I took the dogs ashore for exercise; they ran one buck to me, which I killed; there were not many signs of game. The reason we had to do so much prospecting around was to find a place we could leave our steamer at anchor in safety, and where the Indians had not hunted.

Nov. 12. Very thick snow; got wood and water.

Nov. 13. Raised anchor at daylight and steamed for Cuyon Island, near the mouth of Rocky Passage, where we knew we could always get deer, and plenty of them.

Nov. 14. All went hunting; had good success; Pike five, Taylor six, Lynch six, and myself fifteen, deer.

Nov. 15. All out again; Pike six, Taylor seven, Lynch four, and myself three. I only hunted three hours, being taken with the cramps, and returned to the boat.

Nov. 16. Gathered up the deer and dragged them to the beach.

Nov. 17. Took our small boat, and got our deer aboard the steamer.

Nov. 18. Got wood and water until noon; then we pulled across to a small island, about half a mile away, and turned the dogs loose for exercise; not thinking there was any deer on it. But they soon started a band, of which Fred L. got two, Taylor two, myself one, Pike one; and one came so near running over him that he missed it; it jumped in the water and swam over to the large island. My old dog followed, and so close we could not shoot. We did intend to start for home on November 19, but I did not get my old dog back until late in the afternoon.

Nov. 20. Took a short hunt; Lynch two, Taylor one, Pike one, myself three. We steamed for home at 12 A.M., aiming to run all night; but at 6 P.M. it got very foggy, and in trying to make a bay for the night, we struck a rock about one mile off shore; the tide went down and left us high and dry on the top of a flat rock about twice the size of the boat, with deep water all around us. The tide took us off at 1 A.M.

Nov. 21. The steamer is a double screw, but one shaft got bent; so we could only use one engine after that. We proceeded, with no other difficulty, and reached home November 22, with our meat all in good shape, and plenty for the winter. I have mounted fifteen of the finest heads. I don't pretend to he an expert taxidermist, but I think the heads look very well.

M.R.A. Trap Shooting, 1893

The Massachusetts Rifle Association trap shooting season for 1893 will occur at Walnut Hill, Mass., after May 31, on the following days: June 14 and 28, July 12 and 26, Aug. 9 and 23, Sept. 6 and 20, Oct. 4 and 18, Nov. 1, 15, and 29, Dec. 13 and 27. The M.R.A., in addition to the usual practice and sweepstake matches, will offer a list of prizes, open for competition to all trap shooters, subject to these conditions: sixteen competitions; entrance, 50 cents each day; scores---20 single birds, Keystone system, and 10 single birds, unknown angles; at close of match competitors will be classed on the aggregate of their scores (in the order made) and prizes will be awarded as follows: 1st class (1st to 3rd prizes) on aggregate of 13 scores; 2nd class (4th to 6th prizes) on 12 scores: 3rd class (7th to 9th prizes) on 11 scores; 4th class (10th to 11th prizes) on 10 scores; 5th class (12th and 13th prizes) on 9 scores; 6th class (14th and 15th prizes) on 8 scores; 7th class (16th and 17th prizes) on 7 scores; 8th class (18th and 19th prizes) on 6 scores; no competitor will be given choice of prizes except in the class in which he qualifies; no entries will be accepted after 3 P.M. each day. A gold champion medal will be awarded to the competitor making the highest aggregate in the match, The medal will be delivered at the close of each day's contest to the competitor making the highest score of the day, who will hold and vouch for it and return it to the secretary, at the range, on the day of the succeeding shoot. No competitor excepting the final receiver of the champion medal can win more than one prize. Ties to be shot off at 20 targets.

The Yachting Trip

A good story is told of Mr. Crowningshield's shooting:

Several members of the Massachusetts Rifle Association went on a yachting trip last Summer, and while cruising off Marblehead, Mass., they heard the continuous crack of a pistol in the vicinity of one of the pleasant summer cottages. They inquired who lived in that cottage, and the skipper replied, "Mr. Crowningshield, and he is shooting a good (deal of the time)."

The "boys" returned to Walnut Hill, and informed Mr. Harris, another pistol giant, that he had better keep in practice, for he had, no doubt, a formidable competitor in training.

A few weeks ago I mentioned, in a "gleaning," a three-barrel gun made by Mr. D. Kirkwood of Boston. This gun has two barrels side by side like a shotgun, which are 12-gauge, instead of 16-gauge as I stated. The two barrels mentioned are rifled like a Paradox gun, that is, for a few inches near the muzzle, amid are intended to shoot bullets or shot. The third barrel is under the shot barrels, like the Daly or Peiper three-barrel gun, and is a regular rifle barrel, shooting a bullet only. I had little confidence in the shooting qualities of the 12-bore barrels, with bullets, at a distance beyond one hundred yards, but certainly had greatly underestimated their shooting qualities. Last week Mr. Kirkwood shot the gun at the Maplewood rifle range, amid I have before me as I write, the result of ten shots, at 200 yards, with 12-gauge barrels, fired from a rest, alternately right and left barrels. The target used was the Standard American Rest target, and the shots were, without regard to order, as follows: 6, 6, 6, 7, 7, 7, 8, 9, 9, 12=77. All the shots are on and in a circle 11 3/4 inches in diameter. The charge used was ninety grains of powder and a hollow-pointed bullet weighing six hundred grains. I have never seen a target that excited so much surprise as this, and consider it one of the greatest triumphs of ingenuity amid skill I ever beheld in time line of gunmaking. This novel firearm shoots shot from the barrels that shot the large bullet so well, about as well as a cylinder-bore shotgun, and the regular rifle barrel does as good work as rifles using hunting ammunition.

Mr. F.J. Rabbeth's Pocket Rifle, 1893

Writing of pocket rifles reminds me that, on Saturday last, I visited Walnut Hill. A constant popping at the pistol range attracted my attention, and on going there I found the well known rifleman, Mr. F. J. Rabbeth, busily engaged in sighting a new Stevens pocket rifle, There was nothing especially strange about this, and I should not have lingered there long, perhaps, were it not for the peculiar appearance of the skeleton stock of Mr. Rabbeth's pocket rifle. As usual this gentleman was pleased to show me what he considered a great improvement, and I should not feel I was doing my duty to withhold the same from brother sportsmen. Mr. Rabbeth's latest improvement is in the form of a cartridge receptacle, which is made inside of the skeleton stock of his pocket rifle. It consists of a series of tubes, each one sufficiently large to receive a .22-caliber cartridge. These tubes are soldered together, and fixed to a rod, which is pivoted to points of the skeleton stock—one at the heel, and the other at the opposite end. Thls pivoted rod, to which the tubes are attached, is turned over, and a cartridge inserted in each tube; it is then returned to its place, and the heads of the cartridges keep it firmly in place. Thus a sportsman can carry a supply of cartridges within the skeleton.

Illuminated Cross Hairs

I notice in *Shooting and Fishing* of March 1, Mr. H. Pettit asks for information regarding the illumination of cross hairs in the Mogg rifle telescopes.

Some time last spring I sent an order to Mr. Mogg to make a glass, and open a slot just back and over the disc containing the web. He at once made and sent one which was tested with good results. But wishing to carry the experiment further, we had one made with a larger opening, which worked so well that I should have told the readers all about it had I been writing for publication at the time. The plan is so simple that I almost wonder why it has not been applied before. It is done by adjusting a sliding cover, nicely fitted, with a screw and slot, which holds the cover friction tight, yet leaves it so as to be easily opened and closed.

The principal use of this arrangement is when one is standing out in the light—as at the edge of a woods—and desires to look at an object in the deep shadow of the trees, against dark background. With the ordinary glass, or with the aforesaid cover closed, the cross lines appear to be black. No contrast being formed, as regards color, the cross lines do not show clearly, and one may be all at sea as regards where he is holding—much more so than he is if standing in the shadow of the woods.

It is there where he gains the principal advantage of the illuminated lines, for upon opening the cover the bright light enters from the top, causing one half of the vertical line to appear white (one side) and the top half of the horizontal line to appear the same, tim as making crossed lines of white, or nearly white, to show against the dark ground of the deep woods. It is to be regretted that we did not succeed in showing the whole of the cross lines in white, but they seem to be so sensitive that only one half reflects the light thrown in from the top. How a small mirror might work in aiding this project I should like very much to know. However, it is a great help at certain times and certain places. At many shots it seems to be a help, as it clears up the outlines and renders vision clear and distinct, but does not show the lines in white if one stands in the shadows.

There is one fault, and one only, that I will mention, which is principally the fault of the writer; I found myself leaving the slide open after using, which leaves the delicate web liable to injury by dust and dirt falling in and fouling the interior of the tube. But with a moderate amount of care and thought the habit of closing the slide is formed. Then the instrument is secure and safe.

The additional expense is comparatively nothing; but the many times and places where the improvement is noticeable would make it worth many times its cost.

On one point I was disappointed. I hoped to see the cross lines show white on a black bull's-eye, for target work, but when the target stood out in the open it did not define them so well as I wished. But the difference in hunting in the woods was marked.

But, I suppose Mr. Pettit is capable of suggesting something more to help us along with the lighting up the interior of the tube either by refraction or reflection.

The wires in the Mogg-telescopes are made from a single fiber of silk, as spun by the worm (about as *fine* a job as could he desired). The fiber is white, but as the light comes from the front, the rear part, which is the part seen, is in shadow, which appears black if the light could be reflected to all parts of the rear of cross lines, it should show white against a black bull's-eye in the open.

I shall have more to say on this subject at another time, but will venture to say this much at the present time. The illuminated Mogg telescope referred to by Mr. Pettit is not for sale. This is what I wrote the maker after I had given it a thorough test last season, during a three week vacation in northern New England. I have just sent an order to Mr. Mogg for two new ones, one of which is for a friend, and both are to be illuminated. This I think sums up the matter practically.

I have been deeply interested in the discussion of rifle telescopes in *Shooting and Fishing* for some time past, and, coming from a family of practical opticans, as well as claiming a little knowledge of the action of lenses upon light personally, will venture to say that Mr. Pettit is well able to take care of himself, and needs no help.

I would like to add, in conclusion, that the making of a good rifle telescope is by no means a difficult matter; when compared with many fine optical instruments it sinks into utter insignificance; at the same time, care must be used in setting and centering, as well as grinding. As a correspondent recently put it, "any good mechanic with a fair knowledge of optics may make a good rifle telescope." Care is what is needed.

I have owned and used scores of different glasses on rifles by all the leading makers, as well as those made by men whose names we never see in print. I have seen many good ones by many makers, but none so uniformly good as those by the maker mentioned above. I state this in good faith, for my bills from him, and they are many, are all receipted.

The Krnka ~ Hebler Bullet

Professor Hebler, the well known Swiss expert, to whom we are all indebted for the modern military type of smallbore rifles, in association with Herr Krnka, of Prague, has brought out a new bullet for military smallbore rifles of from to 8 m.m. (about .20 to .32) caliber, which, if the published reports are correct, has given the most astonishing results in the 8 m.m. Hebler rifle.

The annexed sketch shows the section of this bullet inserted in the mouth of the shell. A—bullet. B—air passage through center of bullet. C—sabot, or wad of paper, or other substance.

The bullet is torpedo shaped, pointed both ends alike, and has an air passage through the center. It is made in two patterns: in one the air passage is lined with a steel tube, which stiffens and strengthens the bullet; and in the other the bullet is covered externally with a steel jacket similar to that of ordinary smallbore military bullets.

The bullet is held firmly in the mouth of the shell by a paper sabot, or wad, which is separated from it at the muzzle of the rifle, on being fired. The air passage in the bullet enormously diminishes the resistance of the air, which passes freely through it and over the tapered nose and end of the bullet, leaving no vacuum behind it. The sabot keeps the bullet steady on its passage along the bore of the rifle, and a metal ring, or band (marked D in sketch), gives the bullet time necessary spin as it takes the rifling.

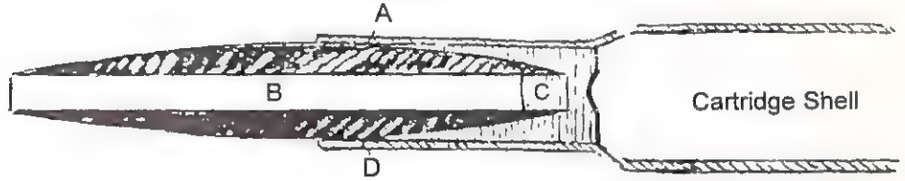
I quote the following from the *London Arms and Explosives* of January, 1894: "It is stated that during some recent experiments in Germany the following results were obtained when these bullets were fired against steel from a 5 m.m. Hebler rifle

Distance in yards.	Velocity, ft. per sec.	Penetration in ins.
0	2,966	33.14"
547	2,769	34.45"
1,094	2,585	37.78"
1,640	2,417	34.12"
2,187	2,257	33.14"
2,734	2,100	30.84"

These experiments show how very greatly the air passage and torpedo shape assist in overcoming the resistance of the air; the enormous muzzle velocity of 2,966 f.s. being only reduced to 2,106 f.s. at nearly 2,800 yards; while the penetration of the bullet is practically as great at that range as it is near the muzzle.

There is no reason why similar bullets should not be used in all calibers of rifles. Those that would especially benefit would be rifles shooting small powder charges which would give as good results with the Hebler ball as heavily charged rifles using the ordinary ball.

The flatness of the trajectory of all sporting rifles would be immensely improved by this projectile, which promises to create quite a revolution in the rifle word.



A - bullet. B - air passage through center of bullet. C - sabot, or wad of paper, or other substance.

Malicious Mischief at M.R.A., 1894

The shooting pavilion of the Massachusetts Rifle Association was broken into last week, probably on Sunday. The depredators did not seem to be intent on procuring rifles, as at the time of writing no losses have been reported. Their object seems to have been malicious mischief, as they broke open lockers and upset things generally, leaving the room in a chaotic state.

Lightning Strikes Twice at M.R.A., 1894

It is said that lightning does not strike in the same place twice. This aphorism is applied to unfortunate incidents that occur in this uncertain life. Two weeks ago the shooting pavilion of the Massachusetts Rifle Association was broken into, and a number of firearms stolen; besides this, there was considerable malicious mischief done in the way of breaking open the lockers, strewing the rifles, ammunition, and appurtenances of the riflemen about the building, The riflemen were thankful they escaped with so little loss; the lockers were repaired, and it was supposed that no further trouble would be experienced. Last Saturday night the pavilion was again broken into, and more firearms stolen, and the same performances of breaking the lockers and scattering riflemen's possessions about the room was repeated. The thieves seem too wise to carry away the rifles; but they did purloin all the small arms they could find. On Monday last the daily papers announced that the range had been broken into again, and that nearly all the rifles left there were stolen. This report influenced a number of riflemen to proceed to Walnut Hill on Monday. Anxiety was depicted on most of the riflemen's faces, as they all had favorite rifles there, which they thought would be no little trouble to replace. Notwithstanding this anxiety, more or less merriment would show itself.

"I don't believe anyone has stolen Mr. Francis' rifle; if they have, they had mighty poor taste," was the jocose remark of one rifleman.

"If they have, I hope they have taken that .40-caliber I have been struggling so hard to make work well," was the reply from Mr. Francis.

"If they have stolen my rifle," remarked a well known shot, "I hope they have taken Kelley's too, for he will surely beat me if they have taken my rifle and left his."

A half hour later it was a common sight to see riflemen shaking hands gleefully; it is, perhaps, unnecessary to explain that such congratulations were prompted by the discovery that their favorite rifles had not been stolen. It is safe to say that most of the riflemen will, in future, prefer to tote their rifles to and from the range, rather than be subjected to such annoyances as they have experienced during the past month.

Among the questions I frequently heard propounded while on the way to Walnut Hill was, "I wonder if they have stolen Chase's rifle." The cause of so much curiosity was on account of the well known shot, Mr. D. L. F. Chase, having procured a new rifle, which was shot on Saturday last for the first time. Ordinary shooting by this expert would provoke little or no comment, for all that know him expect him to do brilliant shooting; but the shooting he did on that day was so wonderful it deserves more than a passing notice. Mr. Chase's new rifle was, in reality, his old Ballard action, to which was fitted a new Winchester .38-caliber barrel. This rifle was rifled with six grooves, in place of the twelve grooves which Mr. Rabbeth fancies so much. It is chambered for the regular .38-55 shell, and the bullet, which was about 300 grains, is jacketed with the Chase patch. The arm is fitted with a telescope. After sighting the rifle Mr. Chase fired just fifty shots, shooting at a rest, 200 yards, on the Standard American Rest target. He recorded the following:

11	10	12	10	10	11	12	11	10	10=107
10	11	11	12	12	12	11	10	10	11=110
12	12	12	11	12	12	11	12	11	10=115
11	12	12	12	11	10	12	12	11	12=115
10	11	10	11	12	12	12	12	12	12=114

It will be seen by these figures that Mr. Chase did not place a shot outside of the 10 ring during the day. Further analysis of the score will show there were twelve 10's, fifteen 11's, and twenty-three 12's. This I consider wonderful shooting.

Writing of such phenomenal rifle shooting reminds me that for a long time I had an offer that I would pay $10 to any person who would place 100 consecutive shots, in one day, within an 8-inch bull's-eye at 200 yards. I believe it was over two years that I had this offer before riflemen at Walnut Hill; but no one made the trial. When I made that proposition I knew well that it was probable that I should have to pay the $10, if the riflemen frequently made the attempt to accomplish what I tried to induce them to undertake.

Very few riflemen are willing to declare their intention of making 100 consecutive shots, or would wager that they could keep them within an 8-inch circle. Of course the modern rifle, with its target charge, is capable of doing much finer work than this. My object in tempting riflemen to this performance was to try and show them there were a number of factors which, combined, made one very liable to get one or two wild shots. I wanted, if possible, to make clear that there were other elements besides the gun that would cause wild shots. I took into consideration the liability of sudden and strong puffs of wind; of the possibility of the rifleman shooting without cleaning his rifle; of the liability of the patch slipping; moving the wind gauge the wrong way; shooting without a bullet; the leading of the gun; the running out of bullets, and being compelled to use a new lot; change of powder; sudden shifting of the wind and light together; sights becoming loosened; a pull off; or many other causes. Shooting as Mr. Chase did on Saturday last might influence me not to again make such a proposition; nevertheless, I should like to see riflemen shoot 100 shot scores, and see how liable they are to occasionally make a wild shot. Very few would keep 100 consecutive shots in an 8 inch bull's-eye.

Captain John B. Osborne

Captain John B. Osborne, of the Massachusetts Rifle Association, has just returned from a hunting trip in Maine. During the hunt Captain Osborne fired but one shot. This might be accepted by many as evidence that he was not successful on his trip; but that one shot brought to bag game enough to last for a long time. Captain Osborne was accompanied on this hunt by his son, and their hunting grounds were in the vicinity of Chesuncook Lake. It was their custom to alternate days in hunting. One day during the latter part of the trip the larder was quite low, and it was thought extra effort must be made to secure fresh meat. Captain Osborne left camp about five o'clock in the afternoon, and paddling up a stream, he found there was quite a mist hanging over the water. While progressing slowly, a sound was heard round the bend of the stream, and the guide remarked that it must be a deer. They paddled cautiously, and in a few minutes the guide remarked that the sound was too heavy for a deer, and it must be a moose. They advanced a short distance farther when the guide remarked, "There he is; don't you see him ?" It was some little time before Captain Osborne could make out the animal, as he was first looking on the wrong side of the river. He finally saw an object standing near the bank of the river, but owing to the mist, he was unable to determine whether it was 50 yards or 200 yards away.

"Can you paddle me any nearer?" he whispered to the guide.

"I am not certain," was the reply. "Can't you hit it from here?"

"I can try," replied Captain Osborne.

The moose was standing head on, and all that could be seen was its head and the light fur on its breast. Aim was taken at his vest, as Captain Osborne expressed It, and when he pulled the trigger, he said he had a bull's-eye hold. After the report, the smoke hung about the canoe, and when it cleared away, the moose had turned, and was making off among the bushes which grew on the banks of the river. Another cartridge was worked forward into the rifle, but as Captain Osborne was about to fire, the moose suddenly dropped and disappeared from view. The spot where the moose was seen to fall was approached carefully, and there was found a magnificent bull, with an unusually fine head. The shot had struck exactly in the center of the breast, had passed clean through the heart of the moose and its liver, making a hole through its heart as large as one's fist, but though careful search was made for the bullet, they failed to find it. I presume, after passing through the heart and liver, the bullet separated and went into shreds, as is sometimes the case with this projectile, The arm used by Captain Osborne was a .45-caliber Lee rifle, which I some time ago had made over from a military arm to a sporting rifle. It was originally made for the .45 70 Government cartridge, but has been rechambered to take a shell which holds ninety grains of powder. The ammunition consisted of ninety grains

Telescopes at Walnut Hill, 1894

Mr. Lawson C. Cummins, of Montpelier, Vt., visited the range of the Massachusetts Rifle Association, at Walnut Hill, Mass., on Saturday last. He had with him a fine line of telescope sights in various styles, including telescopes of high power for rest rifle shooting, those of moderate power for off-hand, and those of low power for hunting. These telescopes were also in various lengths, from ten inches upward. The one of ten inches in length was between three and four in power, and it is claimed that this short scope will give the most satisfactory results on hunting rifles. I was especially interested in some of the telescopes Mr. Cummins had recently produced for Winchester rifles. These he places on the rifle beyond the receiver, and the distance between the eye and the scope is from twelve to fifteen inches. It is interesting to note that very many of the radical departures made by Mr. Cummins appear to be thoroughly practical, and suggest the thought that we are on the eve of greater development of this vision aider.

I do not believe the telescope, as applicable for rifle sights, has been brought to anything like perfection, and also believe that within a few years we shall see great improvements. While chatting with Mr. Cummins, I stated that several years ago, when at the factory of the Winchester Repeating Arms Co., at New Haven, Conn., I was asked by a prominent officer of that company if I had had much experience with telescopes. I had to confess that I had not. He told me that they had tried repeatedly to use the telescope on some of their rifles, but had never been able to find a telescope that would stay in place. The attachments or hangings would become loose from the jar of the rifle. The lenses would also become loose from the same cause. After repeated and elaborate experiments, they had decided that the telescope was no material aid in shooting. At the conclusion of my remarks, one of the best known rest shots at Walnut Hill said, "The Winchester Company was right. Mr. Cummins and all the other manufacturers of rifle telescopes will tell you that they have perfected the telescope so that they will not be so affected, still they do become loose. Therefore what you gain by the increased vision is offset by the defects mentioned." Then followed a general discussion on the best manner of attaching a lens to prevent its jarring loose. Mr. Cummins was an attentive listener to all the suggestions made, and, with his own ideas, I feel certain he will accomplish a great deal, if not secure perfection in the defects which it is claimed now exist.

Walnut Hill Notes, 1894

Walnut Hill rifle range never was more attractive than at the present time. On Saturday last I visited that famous rifle range, and found considerable to interest me. Although the association has enjoyed a long period of immunity from accident, the recent sad affair has made members of the association unusually vigilant. It was thought that every known precaution was taken to guard against accident, but the association has thought that by merest chance, some of the marksmen while shooting at the 600-yard range, might, through carelessness, accidentally discharge a rifle in the direction of a firing point of the 500-yard range, and, to avoid such accident, the association has ordered the construction of a guard which will remove all possible danger. The people of the city of Woburn, in which the range of the association is located, have a very high opinion of the members of the Massachusetts Rifle Association for the manner in which they provided for the mother of the boy who was recently killed there, and the members of the association desire a continuance of this esteem and confidence. The Board of Directors are determined that nothing which flavors in the slightest degree of the possibility of an accident shall be permitted, and, after mature deliberation, has decided that hereafter a person who cannot keep his shots on the target will not be permitted to compete on regular shooting days.

I am sure a majority of the members of the Massachusetts Rifle Association recognize the importance of military rifle shooting. The association numbers among its members some of the best military rifle shooters of this country, who have represented the state repeatedly in national contests, and the country in international contests. They desire to extend all encouragement possible in military rifle shooting, and recognize it as an important adjunct to the great national sport. At the same time it does not see any need of making Walnut Hill a place of resort for men who do not know the rudiments of rifle firing. It is a fact that men have shot at Walnut Hill repeatedly, who have missed the target for ten consecutive shots, and there are companies among the volunteers of the State of Massachusetts, that if they were obliged to face the butts, the majority of them would fail to keep a series of shots on the target. Any man who misses a target is a dangerous man to indulge in rifle firing. This the Massachusetts Rifle Association recognizes, and as a duty to itself, to its members, and the residents of the city of Woburn, it will not in future permit rifle firing from which there is the slightest possibility of danger.

I have alluded to some very bad marksmanship in military rifle shooting at Walnut Hill, but I saw an interesting race on Saturday, which well illustrates what fine shooting can be done with the military rifle. It serves as an excellent illustration of the utter folly of statements which have been made as an excuse for the poor marksmanship, that it was impossible to do fine shooting with the government rifle, in the hands of an expert the Springfield rifle is capable of shooting into the 8-inch bull's-eye at a distance of 200 yards with great regularity. Selected scores could undoubtedly be secured in shooting from a rest with the shots on or in the nine circle, which is evidence that it is from want of skill in the marksman that causes the wild shooting, and not any fault in the rifle. The performance I alluded to was the State Championship Military Match. As a matter of course Private John L. Fowle entered this contest, and although I risk, perhaps, being assailed for the statement, it is a fact that many believe that his excellent shooting has overawed a number of other prominent military marksmen in the state to such an extent that they will

not contest in this match, and I have yet to find a military rifleman admit that Private Fowle is a most formidable competitor for them to shoot against.

Besides Private Fowle's skill as a rifle shot, he is a very fine pistol shot, and should he give his attention to that branch of shooting there is no doubt he would shoot up among the best shots of the country. Recently he spied a woodchuck in a field near his house, and taking his Smith & Wesson .44-caliber revolver, he approached to within about fifty yards of the woodchuck, when he took a quick aim and fired, killing the woodchuck with a single shot.

Private W. G. Hussey, formerly Lieutenant and Inspector of Rifle Practice of the Eighth Infantry, but now a private in the Second Corps of Cadets, who is considered one of the best off-hand military rifle shots in the country, has been frequently mentioned as a man likely to drive Private Fowle hard, if he was unable to vanquish him. Private Hussey appeared at the range on Saturday, and the riflemen there assembled at once anticipated a close contest. There were three other contestants, all of them good shots, but not as yet able to compete successfully with Private Fowle. It is seldom one will witness a contest of five men firing twenty shots each at 200 yards off-hand, and every case on Saturday. There was not an inner made in the 100 shots. Private Fowle I have alluded to before in these columns as one of the wonderful shots of the day; but in my former article, I did not mention that under excitement and while closely pushed, he seems to shoot better than when he has only a competitor of ordinary skill. Before he entered the match on Saturday last, he fired a score which aggregated forty-eight points out of fifty. Such a score a few years ago would have been considered of sufficient importance to telegraph over the country. Forty-eight out of fifty, with a military rifle at 200 yards, will always be considered a brilliant performance by those who are familiar with military marksmanship, but it does not excite the wonder it did a few years ago. Private Hussey had shot but one score since January last, and that was on Decoration Day, when he fired just ten shots, which aggregated forty-nine out of fifty points.

The match on Saturday resulted in another victory for Private Fowle, he winning the match on a score of 94 out of 100 points, Private Hussey falling three points behind him. Dr. S. A. Skinner of Hoosick Falls, N.Y., was one of the several visitors to Walnut Hill on Saturday, among whom were several ladies. Dr. Skinner brought with him his Winchester rifle, to which a Rice telescope was affixed. This was the first Rice telescope that has been brought to Walnut Hill, and the riflemen interested in that style of shooting viewed it with no little interest. The glass was a fine one, and when inspected by these severest of critics, the encomiums were decidedly favorable to the manufacturer. Dr. Skinner is another of those ingenious riflemen, who are so numerous in these days. The mountings for this Rice telescope were invented by himself, and his ingenuity has been shown in the production of a ball seater of unusual merit, as well as a full set of reloading tools, the latter consisting of a capper, de-capper, and a loader. Someone has written, "there's more talent off the stage than one," and I could not help thinking when I viewed the excellent products of Dr. Skinner, that there was full as much talent in the rifle shooting fraternity than among those who manufacture articles for their use.

Although contests in the pistol match are now practically wholly confined to shooting with a single shot pistol, yet I noticed with considerable pleasure that there are indications

of a revival in revolver shooting. Every shooting day there are several riflemen who are sighting or practicing with revolvers. The pocket revolver, as well as those of larger caliber, shooting heavy charges, are employed. From what I have seen, it would seem that the single shot pistol has been recognized as the most reliable arm for target shooting, which is undoubtedly correct, but sportsmen who make fishing and hunting trips, and have indulged more or less in pistol shooting, prefer the revolver to carry with them on these recreative trips. It would seem that the revolver occupies about the same place as compared to the pistol, as the magazine hunting rifle does to the target rifle. One rarely finds any revolver in use at Walnut Hill but the Smith & Wesson and the Colts.

The Directors of the Association have decided to close Walnut Hill on July 4. There is generally a light attendance of shooters on that day, and the American small boy is especially desirous of his liberty on Independence Day. Ralph Greenwood

The Fool with a Gun

There are many fools that worry this world,
Fools old, and fools who're young;
Fools with fortunes, and fools without,
Fools who dogmatize, tools who doubt,
Fools who snigger, and fools who shout,
Fools who never know what they're about,
And fools all cheek and tongue;
Fools who're gentlemen, fools who're cads,
Fools who're greybeards, and fools who're lads,
Fools with manias, fools with fads,
Fools with cameras, fools with tracts,
Fools who deny the stubbornest facts,
Fools in the ones, fools in ads;
Fools who write Theosophist books,
Fools who believe a Mahatmas and spooks;
Fools who prophesy-races and Tophets-
Bigger fools who believe in prophets;
Fools who quarrel, and fools who quack;
In fact, there are all sorts of fools in the pack,
Fools fat, thin, short, and tall;
But of all sorts of fools, the Fool with a Gun
(Who points it at someone-of course "in fun"-
And fools around till chance murder is done)
Is the worsest fool of them all
1893 ~ Punch.

Miss Annie Oakley

It would seem matter of superorogation to even allude to Miss Oakley, for her fame is worldwide. She has been before the public as the guest of crowned beads abroad, and the number of lesser dignities that have witnessed her shooting exhibitions, if enumerated, would fill volumes with their names. She has, without doubt, achieved a fame by her own exertions and skill that has never before been equaled. Only recently she has been shooting for bobwhite, woodcock, and grouse in Bergen County, N.J., in company with an old acquaintance of both herself and the writer, John B. Lozier, of Oradell. Miss Oakley only a few months ago purchased a plot of land at Nutley, one of the prettiest of suburban towns within a short distance of New York City, and has just finished one of the prettiest, cosiest homes that I know of. When fully settled therein, there will be displayed for the gratification of her guests the thousand and one things accumulated by her in her years of travel in this country and abroad. Many of the more valuable of these were presented to her by the many admirers she gained in Europe by her wonderful skill displayed in her shooting exhibitions.

Miss Annie Oakley ("Little Sure Shot")